

Charles Bush Class of 1963

Chuck Bush aspired to get an exceptional education and make a difference in the lives of as many people as possible. These core values were instilled in him by his father, an administrator at Howard University. Thus, in

1954, at age 14, Bush became the first African-American page of the Supreme Court of the United States, an appointment he received from Chief Justice Earl Warren. Bush had attended Howard University for two years when he was approached to be among the first individuals to integrate the Academy in 1959. He entered with two other African-Americans and in 1963 he became the first African-American to graduate from the Academy.

Bush served in Vietnam as an intelligence officer and separated from the Air Force in 1970. After leaving the Air Force he attended Harvard Business School and went on to enjoy an outstanding career in the private sector. He became a senior executive with Hughes International, a senior executive, corporate controller and treasurer for Max Factor Cosmetics and the president of Marnel Investment Corporation, a merchant bank in Los Angeles, Calif. Over the years he has become a singular voice on diversity issues in the United States.





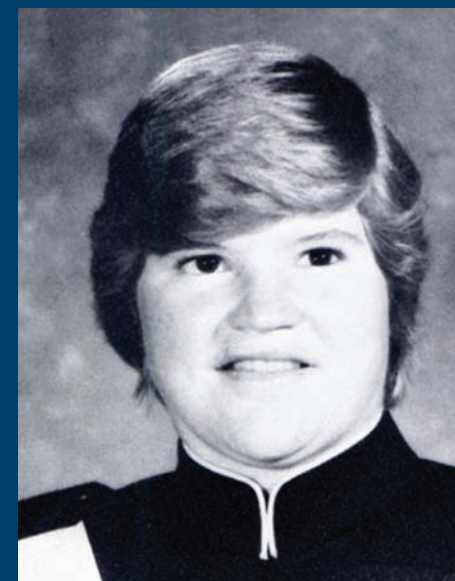
Linda Cubero

Class of 1980

Linda Garcia Cubero is the first Hispanic woman to graduate from any of the nation's service academies. After graduating from USAFA, Cubero spent seven years in the Air Force. While serving as a liaison to the White House, Cubero supervised the development of a commemorative postage stamp that honored Hispanics in defense of the nation. The stamp, which was designed by the then ten surviving Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients, was unveiled by President Reagan in 1984.

After her Air Force service, Cubero began a successful private sector career in account management and service delivery. In 1998 she was inducted into the National Hispanic Engineering Hall of Fame. In 2002, Hispanic Business magazine named her one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" in the United States. Cubero is currently a global account executive at NCR Corporation.





General Janet Wolfenbarger Class of 1980

On June 5, 2012, Janet Wolfenbarger became only the second woman, and the first in Air Force history, to reach the rank of four-star general. Wolfenbarger is a challenge seeker and the allure of being one of the first women to enter a service academy was irresistible. She joined the Class of 1980, and despite some ups and downs, never considered leaving. In the end, she and her fellow female classmates proved that women could survive and thrive in a service academy atmosphere.

After nearly 32 years of service, Wolfenbarger has risen to lead the Air Force Material Command, the command she spent her career serving. Wolfenbarger is a role model—for being a member of the first class with women, for what she has accomplished since, and for what she stands for. “I grew up in a military family and I’ve always felt great pride and satisfaction in serving our country,” she says. “I believe that serving in the military allows me to have no other agenda than simply to do what is right.”



Shawna Kimbrell

Class of 1998

Growing up in Shawna Kimbrell's family virtually guaranteed that she would gracefully hurdle many of the obstacles she might encounter in life. Before she was born, her parents moved to the United States from the South American country of Guyana seeking opportunity. Her father earned a degree from Howard University and obtained his doctorate from Purdue before taking a job in Colorado. In fourth grade Kimbrell decided she wanted to be a fighter pilot. In 1999 she earned her pilot wings and became the first black female fighter pilot. Kimbrell went on to fly combat sorties in Operation Northern Watch.

As an aviation pioneer, Kimbrell has this advice for anyone looking to break barriers, "Nothing's easy. Expect road blocks, expect that there are going to be people out there who don't want you to succeed, expect people are going to tell you no. But the desire that comes from within—if it's something that you really want—will carry you through."



Harry Pearce

Class of 1964

During his Air Force career Harry Pearce was a Staff Judge Advocate and was certified as a military judge. On his return to civilian life he served in some of the highest posts in corporate America. From 1996 to 2001, he was a vice chairman and director of General Motors Corporation before serving as chairman of Hughes Electronics Corporation. Pearce is a member of the USAFA Endowment Board of Directors and is currently the chairman of MDU Resources' board of directors. MDU is a company that sells products and resources primarily related to supporting energy and transportation infrastructure.

Pearce's support for improving education, increasing minority opportunities, encouraging local economic development, and ending the trauma of life-threatening diseases has earned him numerous national awards. In spirit, character and accomplishment, Mr. Pearce's career has epitomized the values and ideals of the United States Air Force Academy. In 2001, Pearce became one of the first two recipients of the Distinguished Graduate Award.





Richard Schlosberg

Class of 1965

Throughout his notable career, 2003 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient Richard Schlosberg has demonstrated principled leadership and selfless

commitment to his institutions, community and country that exemplify the values of the Academy. As a young officer, Capt. Schlosberg was awarded the air medal with five oak leaf clusters after serving two tours of duty in Southeast Asia where he flew over 200 combat support missions as a KC-135 pilot.

After graduating with honors from Harvard Business School, Schlosberg began a career in publishing that spanned 25 years. He served as publisher and CEO of the Denver Post; and president, publisher and CEO of the Los Angeles Times. Under his leadership, both the Denver Post and the Los Angeles Times won the Pulitzer Prize, journalism's highest honor. In 1999, Schlosberg became president and CEO of The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, one of the nation's largest philanthropic foundations, where he led efforts to: improve early childhood education and health, to support emerging scientists, protect the oceans and slow the rate of world population growth. During his five-year tenure, the Foundation provided \$2 billion in grants to non-profit organizations worldwide.

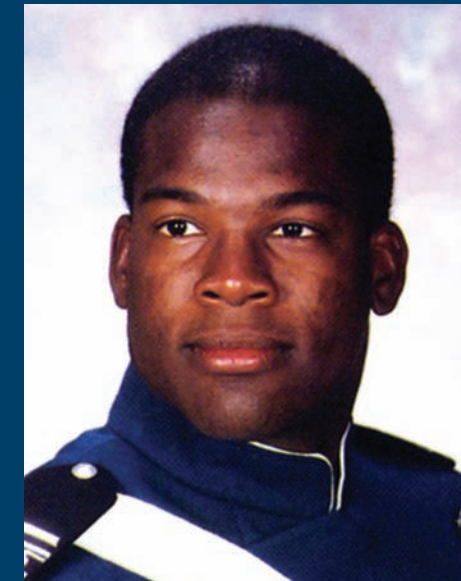




Nancy Kudla Class of 1980

Entrepreneur and businesswoman Nancy Kudla is the president of the Kudla Foundation, a non-profit organization that focuses on two primary mission areas: developing servant leaders of character and integrity and helping ensure our nation's cyber security. She is also the executive vice-president of commercial real estate ownership and management company FNK Ventures.

Kudla gained prominence as the co-founder, chairman and CEO of dNovus RDI, a federal contracting company that specializes in applied information technology. Under her leadership, dNovus was transformed from a one-person consulting firm to one of the largest woman-owned businesses in Texas employing more than 350 professionals nationwide and earning over \$35 million in revenues. In 2008, Kforce Inc. acquired dNovus for a staggering \$38 million dollars. Kudla graduated with honors in the first class of female graduates at the United States Air Force Academy and was a Rhodes Scholar National Finalist. She has previously served on the USAFA Board of Visitors and is a member of the USAFA Endowment Board of Directors.



Richard Lewis

Class of 1989

After serving his country in Operation Southern Watch and various international assignments, Richard Lewis separated from the Air Force at the rank of Captain after fulfilling his commitment. In his civilian life, Lewis has built a successful technology services company from the ground up. This self-starter had to learn much of his craft the hard way—by taking risks, following his heart and getting a little less sleep at night. Since starting RTL-Networks in 2002, Lewis' company has enjoyed healthy growth with offices in Denver and Washington D.C. He is also the chairman of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce and was selected as the 2010 recipient of the Colorado Leadership Alliance's 9News Leader of the Year award.

Lewis intimately understands the challenges of starting a business from little more than an idea and then molding it into reality. He took great personal risk to build a business that he believed in, even going so far as to mortgage his home and put up the title of his car to provide loan capital. The risk was worth the reward. Today, RTL-Networks is one of the fastest growing companies in both Denver and Washington D.C.



Fred Gregory Class of 1964

Fred Gregory is a national hero and striking role model. A retired Air Force colonel and formerly one of the highest ranking NASA officials, Gregory has served the Air

Force and the nation's space program with self-sacrifice and an enduring commitment to the safety of space travel.

After graduating in 1964, Gregory went on to log 7,000 hours in more than 50 types of U.S. aircraft, including 550 combat missions in Vietnam. In 1978, Gregory was selected as a pilot astronaut, where he continued his career at NASA as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Gregory would soon become the first African-American to pilot a space shuttle and to command any space vehicle. In 1993, Gregory retired from military service but continued to serve at NASA. In 2002, Gregory became NASA's deputy administrator, making him the first African-American deputy in the agency. Gregory was entrusted with ensuring the safety of some of science's most prized technological assets—the space shuttle and International Space Station—and for setting the course for the next stage of space flight. In 2005, Gregory was named the agency's acting administrator. He retired from NASA later that year. Gregory served on the AOG Board of Directors and is a 2004 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient.





Paul Kaminski

Class of 1964

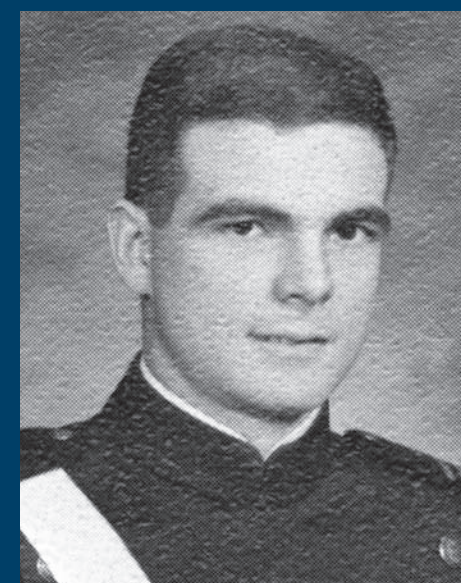
Dr. Paul Kaminski has made a profound impact on our nation's security and military capability. President Ronald Reagan once said of Kaminski, "Seldom

has a person of your rank achieved so much for his nation through the sheer genius of his ideas."

Those ideas include his work from 1977-1981 when he collaborated with former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry to establish the foundation for the DoD Stealth and Counter-Stealth program. After a brilliant Air Force career, Dr. Kaminski served in the private sector in advisory and board positions. Kaminski is formerly the chairman and chief executive officer of Technovation, Inc.

He returned to government service from 1994-1997, turning his keen management skills toward acquisition reform while serving as under secretary of defense for acquisition and technology. His philosophies helped usher in a new era of advancement and affordability through programs procurement such as Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM). Kaminski is a 2002 recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award.





Chuck Reed Class of 1970

San Jose, California Mayor Chuck Reed served as Cadet Wing commander and graduated number one in his class at the Academy. Reed would serve in Thailand during the Vietnam War and get a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton while still in the Air Force. After leaving the Air Force in 1975, he attended Stanford Law School and went on to work as an attorney in San Jose specializing in environmental, employment, land use and real estate law.

Reed used his success as an attorney as an opportunity to devote more time to working in the community. He did this by providing free legal advice to a number of local non-profit organizations and by serving on 20 boards, committees, and task forces. In 2000, after two decades of civic participation, Reed ran for, and won, a seat on San Jose's City Council. On November 7, 2006, Reed was elected the 64th mayor of San Jose, the 10th largest city in the United States. In 2010 he was re-elected with 77% of the vote. He has become nationally renowned for his efforts to bring fiscal reforms to San Jose, which has been dealing with fiscal challenges. Reed is known for his fierce support of honesty, fiscal responsibility and open government.

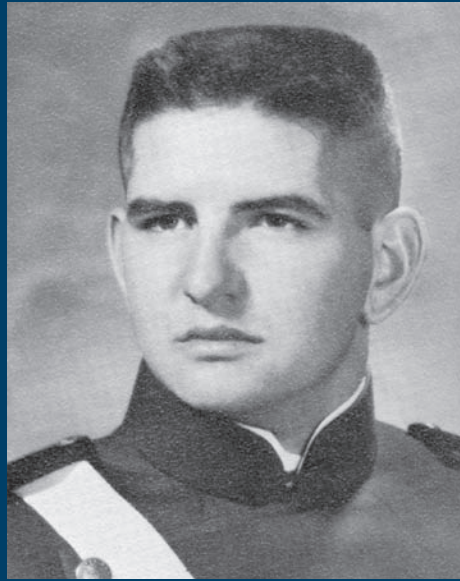


Heather Wilson Class of 1982

Heather Wilson is a 2009 recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award from the Air Force Academy. Wilson spent seven years in the Air Force working as a political advisor and negotiator. She went on to become the first Academy graduate to be elected to the U.S. Congress, representing New Mexico's First Congressional District from 1998 to 2009. She was the first woman to represent New Mexico since the 1940s.

As a member of the House, Wilson served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, including various subcommittees on the environment, health, telecommunications and the Internet, as well as on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. She was the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence and served on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Wilson believes her most important work was on the intelligence committee after the 9/11 attacks.

Wilson says attending the Academy taught her integrity and leadership while fostering her belief in a commitment to public service. The honor code has been a guiding principle for Wilson throughout her professional life along with a belief in the obligation to serve.



General Ronald Fogleman Class of 1963

General (Ret.) Ronald Fogleman served as CSAF for nearly three years from 1994-1997. A 1963 Academy graduate, and the first graduate to become CSAF, he also holds a master's degree in military history and political science from Duke University. As a command pilot and a parachutist, he amassed more than 6,800 flying hours in fighter, transport, tanker and rotary wing aircraft. He flew 315 combat missions and logged 806 hours of combat flying in fighter aircraft.

In early assignments he instructed student pilots, performed combat duty as a fighter pilot and high-speed forward air controller in Vietnam and Thailand, taught history at the Air Force Academy and conducted flight operations in Europe—including duty as an F-15 aircraft demonstration pilot for international airshows. He commanded an Air Force wing, an air division, a numbered air force, a major command and a unified command. After retiring from the Air Force, Gen. Fogleman served as the chair of the Falcon Foundation. He has also chaired an Air Force laboratory study on directed energy weapons. In 2001, Gen. Fogleman became one of the first two recipients of the Distinguished Graduate Award.





General Michael Ryan Class of 1965

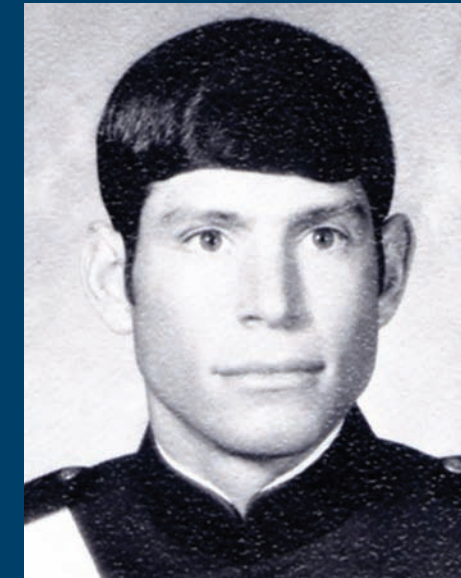
General (Ret.) Michael Ryan first came to the Academy as a football recruit. Following a year at the Prep School, he eagerly joined the Class of 1965 on the

Terrazzo. His brother Jack was also in his graduating class. The two served together as F-4 pilots in Vietnam. Tragically, Jack was killed in an F-4 crash after returning home from the war. Then–Capt. Ryan flew 100 combat missions over North Vietnam, where his courage under fire earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross and 12 Air Medals.

Gen. Ryan quickly progressed through the ranks of leadership during his Air Force career. As commander of 16th Air Force and NATO's Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, he planned and directed combat air operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, resulting in peace accords for that war torn nation.

Following in his father's footsteps, Ryan was appointed Air Force Chief of Staff in November 1997. He was the second Academy graduate to serve in that position. Ryan is a 2005 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient.

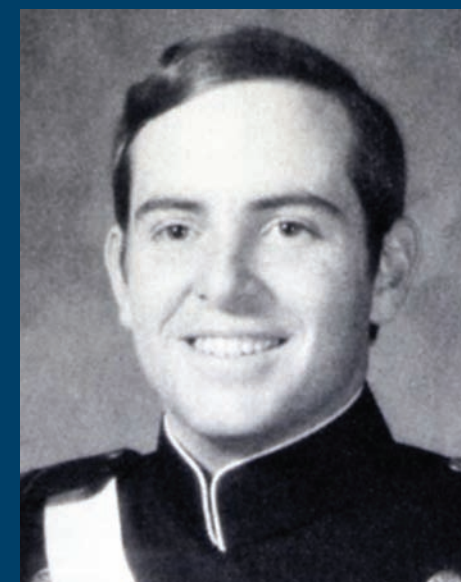




General Norton Schwartz Class of 1973

General (Ret.) Norton Schwartz retired as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force in 2012 after four years in the position. Gen. -Schwartz previously served as commander of the Special Operations Command-Pacific, and the 11th Air Force. Prior to serving as Chief of Staff, Gen. Schwartz was commander, U.S. Transportation Command and served as the single manager for global air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense. Gen. Schwartz is a command pilot with more than 4,400 flying hours in a variety of aircraft. He participated as a crew member in the 1975 airlift evacuation of Saigon, and in 1991 served as Chief of Staff of the Joint Special Operations Task Force for Northern Iraq in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1997, he led the Joint Task Force that prepared for the noncombatant evacuation of U.S. citizens in Cambodia.

"The unbroken 'Long Blue Line' exemplifies what the Academy's founders had envisioned: men and women of moral stature and genuine character," says Schwartz when reflecting on the Academy. "Along with the rest of our Air Force, the Academy has pushed boundaries and broken barriers—some technological, some physical, some societal, but all for the betterment of our Air Force ... and we need to keep it that way."



General Mark Welsh III Class of 1976

In 2012, General Mark Welsh III became the 20th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force and the fourth Academy graduate to hold the service's highest commissioned office. Welsh previously served as commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

Gen. Welsh is a command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours, principally in the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the A-10 Thunderbolt II. Welsh has received numerous awards for his military service, including a Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two Distinguished Service Medals, two Defense Superior Service Medals, two Legion of Merit medals and two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

When speaking to cadets in 2011 Gen. Welsh offered these expectations of them: "We expect you to be credible. When you tell your airmen later that you're going to do something for them, you'd better do it. If you tell them you're going to follow up on an action for them, you'd better follow up. If you tell them you're going to look into something for their family, you'd better look into it. Folks, you get one chance—one chance. Be ready."



Bradley C. Hosmer

Class of 1959

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Bradley C. Hosmer's years of service to his country were marked by a series of historic "firsts" matched only by his exemplary record of leadership and professionalism. He was the top graduate in the first Academy class. He was also the Academy's first Rhodes Scholar and the first graduate to serve as Superintendent.

Lt. Gen. Hosmer was a command pilot and flew more than 4,000 hours principally in fighter aircraft. As a young officer, he served as an air liaison officer and forward air controller with the Army in Vietnam. His courage under fire earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross. During his career, Hosmer's wisdom and foresight earned him a lasting reputation as a thinker, planner and innovator in a wide array of positions. During his tenure as the Academy's Superintendent, he made remarkable contributions in a number of critical areas. He spearheaded the development of the Academy's core values—Integrity First—Service Before Self—Excellence in All We Do. The Air Force later adopted these strong principles as its core values. Hosmer is a 2003 recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award.





Ervin Rokke

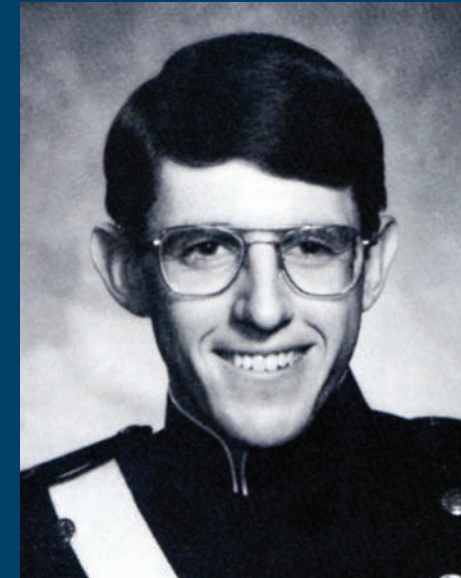
Class of 1962

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Ervin Rokke has made an enormous impact in both the fields of military intelligence and academics over the course of his career. Upon

graduation from the Air Force Academy, Dr. Rokke completed a graduate degree in international relations from Harvard University, and then went on to Air Force Intelligence training. The young officer served several intelligence assignments in Japan and Hawaii before being brought back to the Academy as an instructor for the Political Science Department. Rokke served in four different capacities for the Air Force Academy including assistant dean of faculty, head of the Political Science Department and dean of faculty. He is the first Academy graduate to have been appointed a permanent professor and the only dean of faculty to return to the Air Force after serving in that position.

Upon retiring from the Air Force in 1997, Rokke became the president of Moravian College and Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Dr. Rokke is a recipient of the Air Force Academy's 2007 Distinguished Graduate Award and is a founding member of the USAFA Endowment.

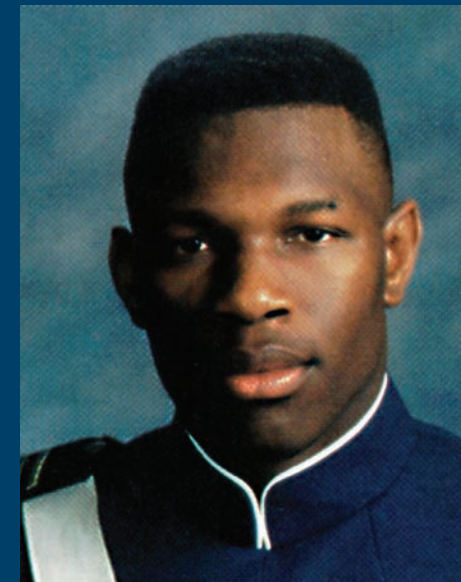




Tom Krise Class of 1983

After serving 22 years in the Air Force, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Tom Krise moved steadfast into the world of academics. Having spent time as a professor at the Academy during active duty, Krise went on to become a senior military fellow of the Institute for National Strategic Studies in Washington, D.C., and vice director of the National Defense University Press.

He became chair of the Department of English at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, and later moved across the nation to become dean of the College of the Pacific in 2008. Today, Krise has risen to the top of the academic profession as president of Pacific Lutheran University in Parkland, Washington.

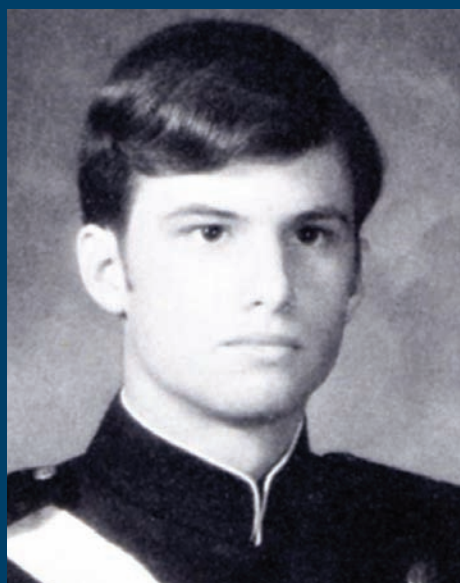


Chris Howard

Class of 1991

Hailing from humble beginnings in north Texas, Dr. Chris Howard graduated from the Air Force Academy with a B.S. in political science, was class president and group commander, and garnered First-Team Academic All-American honors as a starting running back on the football team. Upon graduating, Dr. Howard was named a Rhodes Scholar. He wrote his doctoral dissertation while attending Oxford University.

On active duty, Dr. Howard served as a UH-1 “Huey” helicopter pilot and an intelligence officer. He transitioned into the Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency. Howard went on to found the Impact Young Lives Foundation, which provides scholarship and travel opportunities for South African students. Dr. Howard later accepted a role at the University of Oklahoma as the vice president for strategic and leadership Initiatives. Moving to Virginia in 2008, Dr. Howard was elected the 24th president of Hampden-Sydney College—the first African-American to hold that position.



General Kevin Chilton Class of 1976

General (Ret.) Kevin Chilton has had one of the most unique and prolific careers of any officer in Air Force history. In 2011, Chilton retired as commander of U.S.

Strategic Command—the command charged with the nation’s nuclear deterrent mission—after leading the way in reforming the management of the nuclear enterprise and overseeing the creation of the Air Force Global Strike Command. His career also includes a stint as commander of Air Force Space Command and a joint assignment as the Joint Staff’s director of politico-military affairs for Asia-Pacific and the Middle East regions.

But before serving in these posts, Chilton flew operational assignments in the RF-4C and F-15 and weapons testing in the F-4 and F-15. Chilton also served for 10 years at NASA where he flew three Space Shuttle missions. He piloted the Shuttle Endeavour on its maiden voyage during the Space Transportation System-49 mission, his first as an astronaut. In 2012 Chilton was inducted into NASA’s Astronaut Hall of Fame. He is the first and only astronaut to return to military service and become a four-star general. Chilton has also given back to the Academy by serving on the AOG Board of Directors.





Allison Hickey

Class of 1980

Brigadier General (Ret.) Allison Hickey credits her interest in military service to her upbringing as the daughter of Army Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Bill Hilsman. Hickey was among the very first class of women to graduate from the Air Force Academy. After undergraduate pilot training she went to combat crew training for the KC-135 tanker. Later she became the first female KC-135 pilot at Grand Forks AFB, N.D. Hickey would also become the base's first female aircraft commander, also piloting the KC-10A.

Hickey went on to serve in all three Air Force components, including ten years on active duty, one year in the Reserve and 13 years in the Air National Guard. Her experience made her the ideal person to lead the Total Force Integration initiative as director of the Future Total Force Directorate. General Hickey and her staff were charged with restructuring the Air Force by integrating the Regular, Guard and Reserve components in a way that maximizes overall efficiency, effectiveness and capability. In 2004, Hickey became the first female Academy graduate to be promoted to General officer. After retiring from the Air Force in 2007, Hickey served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Graduates. She is currently the under secretary for benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs.





Kim Campbell Class of 1997

Aptly nicknamed "KC," for Killer Chick, Kim Campbell was a seasoned combat pilot by the time she made her second deployment to Iraq in 2003. Flying A-10 Warthogs, Campbell's group provided close air support to ground forces near Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On April 7, 2003, the U.S. Air Force's 23rd Fighter Group responded to yet another call and the Killer Chick was airborne to bring the hammer down on an enemy stronghold. Campbell used the A-10's 30mm cannon and anti-tank ordnance to devour enemies whose position had pinned down allied ground troops.

Her ammunition depleted, Campbell turned her aircraft to return to base when an anti-aircraft missile slammed into her rear stabilizer. Shrapnel peppered the Warthog's fuselage, knocking out all hydraulic control. Campbell was forced to switch to manual reversion, using the aircraft's emergency cable and crank system to keep the jet aloft. After narrowly escaping a crash landing into hostile Baghdad territory, she managed to limp the severely damaged aircraft back to Kuwait in a feat of flying that was nothing less than miraculous. The journey would later earn her a Distinguished Flying Cross. The following day, the Killer Chick was back in a new A-10, providing ground support.

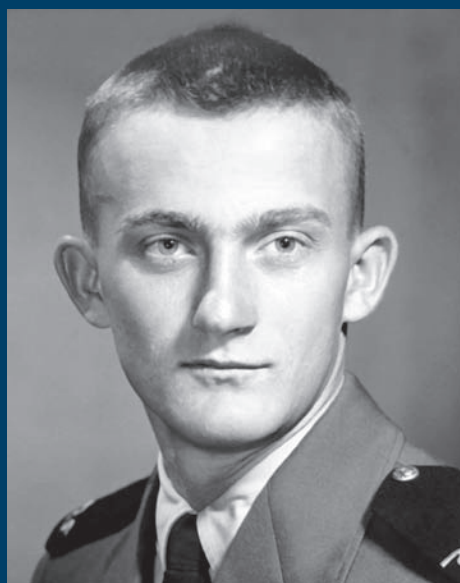


Prichard Keely

Class of 2004

On April 6, 2008, a 130-man assault force of American and Afghan soldiers was flown into the Shok Valley by CH-47 Chinook helicopters with a mission to capture a top insurgent target. As the assault force assembled near a riverbed in the valley's rocky terrain, two 335th Fighter Squadron F-15E Strike Eagles soared above, providing cover and hunting for potential threats from the insurgents' mountainside village stronghold. Prichard Keely was flying air support when gunfire erupted from an insurgent position, pinning down a small contingent of the assault group, which had broken away from the main force.

Keely was forced to engage the enemy ground targets despite their close proximity to U.S. troops. During a three hour sortie, during which the F-15s undertook two in-air refuelings, Keely coordinated air strikes from a joint tasking of AH-64 Apache helicopters and A-10 Warthogs. By the end of the fight, between 150 and 200 insurgents were killed and U.S. ground forces were safely re-united with the primary assault group. For his actions, Keely was awarded the Jabara Award for Airmanship.



Ed Mechenbier

Class of 1964

On his 113th combat mission over North Vietnam, 2006 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Edward Mechenbier was shot

down, captured and imprisoned for nearly six years by the North Vietnamese. While a captive in the infamously brutal "Hanoi Hilton" prison, he developed a way to communicate with the other POWs, encouraging them to stay strong and to remember that one day they would return home. Mechenbier's leadership within the POW camp was later featured in the 1998 documentary introduced by Tom Hanks, Return with Honor. After his repatriation, he transferred to the Air National Guard and then to the Air Force Reserve until his retirement in 2004. When he retired, he was the only former POW serving in uniform.

Looking back, Mechenbier maintains that he was one of the lucky ones. "Those of us who were privileged or lucky enough to have come home from Vietnam, we owe it to those who were less fortunate to always remember and honor their commitment."





R. Stephen Ritchie

Class of 1964

Brigadier General (Ret.) Steve Ritchie is the only pilot ace in the history of the Academy and, in the current era of warfare, that may remain true in perpetuity. Ritchie shot down five enemy planes in a four-month period in 1972. This made him the Air Force's sole pilot ace of the Vietnam War. To put that into perspective, there were 1,282 fighter aces in World War II. That number dwindled to 44 in Korea and then to two in Vietnam.

One of his most harrowing experiences occurred on July 8, 1972. On this day Ritchie shot down two MiG-21s in an area near Hanoi known as the Banana Valley. After receiving a report that North Vietnamese MiGs were only two miles from his jet and closing, Ritchie quickly maneuvered and fired two missiles at one MiG, three at another, both went down.

On his experiences in war Ritchie said, "I realized then, as I do now, that any day I could have been shot down, killed or captured. I took a 37mm (bullet) in the intake of the right engine one time. One out of 100,000 chances I could have survived that. So I'm grateful to be alive."





Chesley Sullenberger III Class of 1973

On January 15, 2009—a cold day in New York City—1973 Academy graduate “Sully” Sullenberger’s aviation skills were put to the ultimate test when the US Airways passenger jet he was piloting intercepted a flock of Canadian Geese. Reports indicated that the Airbus 320 ingested a number of birds into its engines, causing the aircraft to lose power. With a jet full of passengers over densely populated Manhattan, Sullenberger was forced to make the most important decision of his life: to glide the Airbus down for a water landing in the Hudson River.

As the nation will recall for years to come, this decision became one of the most remarkable feats in aviation history. In an unthinkable miracle, after plunging into the freezing waters of the Hudson, Sullenberger managed to save the lives of all 155 passengers. In the wake of the event, media attention was intense. Yet, the 2009 Jabara Award winner deflected the spotlight. Perhaps this is yet another lesson that we can learn from this quiet hero: that actions truly speak louder than words.



LeRoy Homer Jr. Class of 1987

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, LeRoy Homer Jr., was in the skies over the eastern United States as part of the flight crew of United Airlines Flight 93 bound for San Francisco. First officer Homer was one of the pilots to receive a message from United warning of cockpit intrusions and informing them of the planes that had already hit the World Trade Center. The hijacking of Flight 93 occurred 46 minutes after takeoff, and the plane was rerouted toward Washington, D.C. targeting the U.S. Capitol. At one point FAA air traffic control center in Cleveland could hear Homer declaring "mayday" amid sounds of a physical struggle in the cockpit. The heroism of the passengers of Flight 93 is well documented as they deterred yet another terrorist attack at the cost of their own lives. Tragically the plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa., leaving no survivors.

Homer was posthumously granted honorary membership in the famed Tuskegee Airmen, and in 2002 the LeRoy W. Homer Jr. Foundation was established in his name. The mission of the foundation is to encourage and support young adults who wish to pursue careers as professional pilots and promote awareness about aviation careers to disadvantaged youth.



Allison Hickey

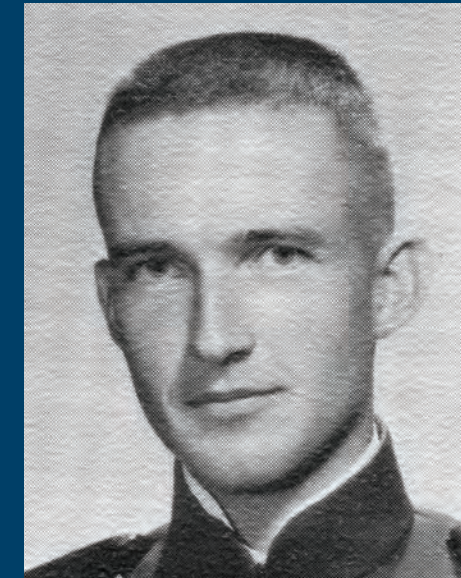
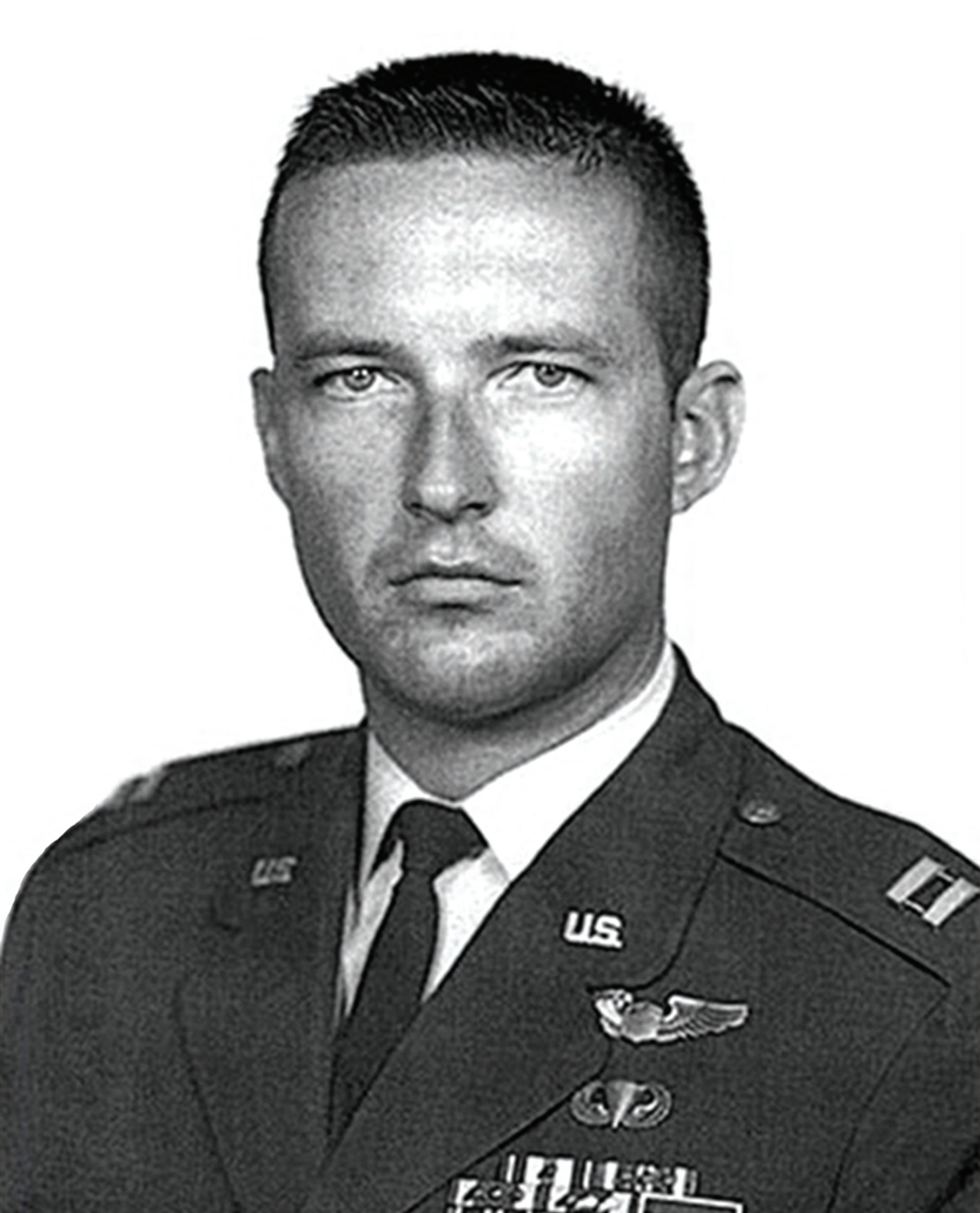
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After retiring in 2007, Hickey served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Graduates. She served as under secretary for benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs from 2011-15.





Robert Lodge Class of 1964

Maj. Robert Alfred Lodge attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology for one year prior to entering USAFA in 1960. Upon graduation, Lodge completed pilot training in 1966 and became a pilot in F-105 and F-4D aircraft. During two voluntary tours in Southeast Asia, Lodge flew 186 combat missions and received the Silver Star with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with six Oak Leaf Clusters, 37 Air Medals and a Purple Heart.

Lodge was one of the pilots involved in the LINEBACKER offensive in 1972, targeting the Paul Doumer Bridge and the Yen Vien railroad yard near downtown Hanoi. On May 10, 1972, Lodge's F-4D was shot down while on a combat mission over North Vietnam. Lodge was declared missing in action. His back-seater, Capt. Robert Locher, survived and was later rescued. On May 17, 1973, Lodge was officially declared killed in action. In 1977, Lodge's remains were identified and returned to the U.S.

For his distinguished achievements in air combat tactics in Southeast Asia, resulting in the downing of several enemy aircraft, Lodge was posthumously honored with the Jabara Award for airmanship in 1974.



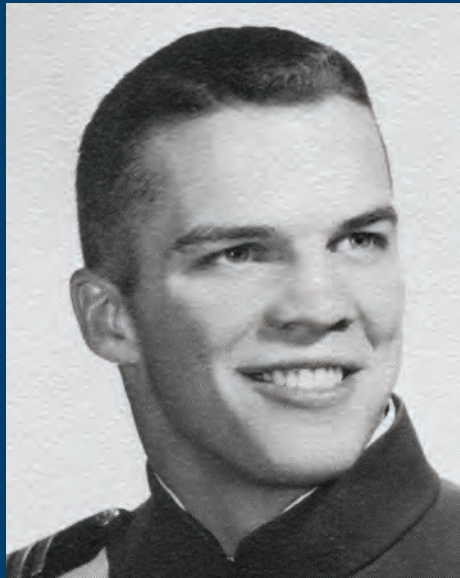
Nicole Malachowski

Class of 1996

Early in her career, Col. Nicole Malachowski served as an operational F-15E pilot in three fighter squadrons. She flew more than 190 combat hours in Operation Deliberate Forge, Operation Iraqi Freedom and homeland defense missions in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Malachowski later became the first woman pilot to be part of the Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team. She also served as commander of the 333rd Fighter Squadron.

In 2007, Malachowski received the Living Legacy Award from the Women's International Center for her global contributions to women. In 2008, she was inducted into the Pioneer Hall of Fame by Women in Aviation International. She also was the 2009 recipient of the Lillian Keil Award from the American Veterans Center, recognizing her for contributions to the military.

From 2008-09, Malachowski served as a White House Fellow, where she was a member of the Presidential Transition Support Team in the office of the president-elect, Barack Obama. From 2015-16, Malachowski served as the first female executive director of Joining Forces, a White House initiative supporting veterans, service members and military families.



Allan McArtor

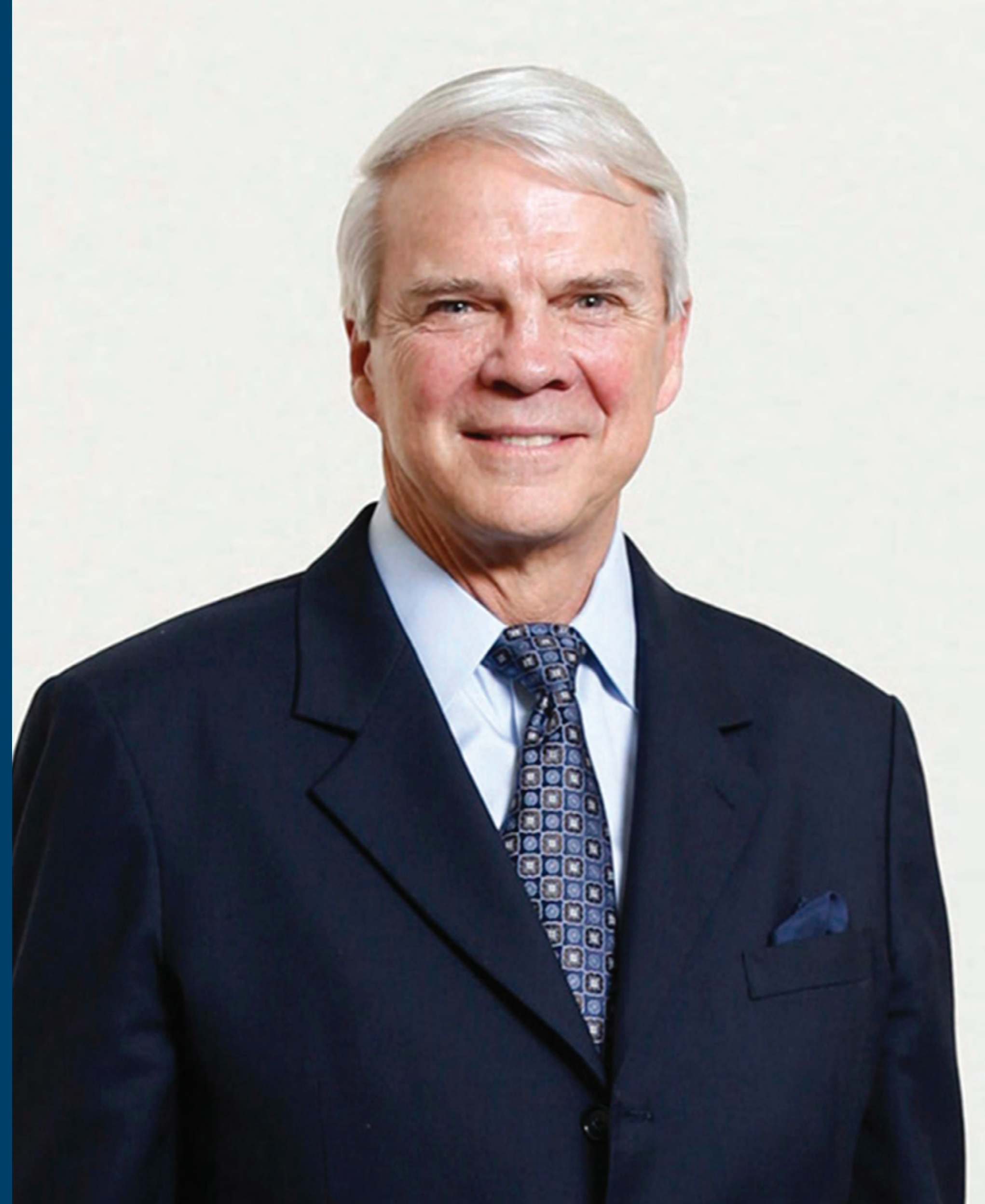
Class of 1964

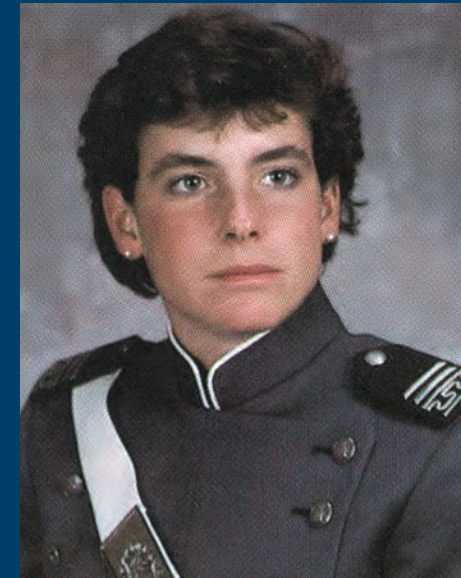
T. Allan McArtor joined Airbus Americas as board chairman in 2001. He was selected as CEO and chairman of Airbus Group, Inc. in 2013 and has served in that dual capacity since. He oversees the operations and strategy for Airbus Group companies in the United States, Canada and Latin America.

After graduating from USAFA, McArtor was a combat fighter pilot in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. He was later an associate professor of engineering mechanics at USAFA and a pilot with the U.S. Air Force's Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team.

In 1979, he joined Federal Express as a senior executive. From 1987-89, he was tapped by President Reagan to head up the Federal Aviation Administration. During his tenure, McArtor helped modernize the nation's air traffic control system and helped restore the public's confidence in the FAA.

McArtor returned to FedEx in 1989. He would later found and become the CEO of Legend Airlines. McArtor received the National Aeronautic Association's 2015 Wesley L. McDonald Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Award. In 2014, McArtor was inducted to the Living Legends of Aviation.





Martha McSally

Class of 1988

Col. (Ret.) Martha McSally served 26 years at USAFA and in the Air Force. In 1995, following the repeal of the combat restriction against female pilots, McSally became the first female Air Force pilot to fly in combat over enemy territory, enforcing the no-fly zone imposed over Iraq.

McSally was selected to become an A-10 instructor pilot, becoming the first woman in U.S. history to serve in that role. In 1999, McSally was chosen to participate in the Air Force's Legislative Fellowship Program, serving as a national security advisor. She was later assigned to Saudi Arabia to oversee combat search and rescue operations over southern Iraq and Afghanistan. While there, McSally was on the leadership team that planned and executed the initial air campaign in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks.

In 2004, McSally took over as commander of the 354th Fighter Squadron, becoming the first woman to command a combat aviation unit. After retiring from the Air Force, McSally ran for Congress in 2012. McSally ran again in 2014 and was elected to represent Arizona's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House, becoming only the second graduate to be elected to Congress.



Dana Born

Class of 1983

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Dana Born is a lecturer in public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She enjoyed a 30-year career with the Air Force before retiring in 2013.

From 2004-13, she served two terms as the dean of the faculty for the U.S. Air Force Academy, where she was also a professor and head of the Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Department. During her tenure as dean, Born oversaw the delivery of more than 500 undergraduate courses in 32 academic disciplines for the Academy's 4,000 cadets. Born also was an assistant professor and permanent professor at the Academy during two additional career stints.

Born commanded the 11th Mission Support Squadron at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., providing education, training, and family support to service members in the National Capital Region and around the world. She also was an exchange officer with the Royal Australian Air Force, and served in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Born has been a trustee on the USAFA Falcon Foundation.



Hansford Johnson

Class of 1959

Thirty years after graduating with the first USAFA class, Gen. Hansford Johnson '59 became the first alumnus to rise to the rank of general in the Air Force. Gen. Johnson

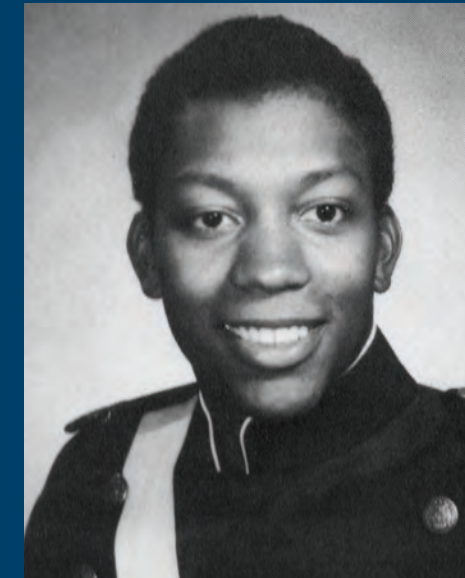
was directly involved with virtually every U.S. conflict from Vietnam to the War on Terrorism.

Johnson's first operational assignment was flying C-130 transports throughout Europe, Africa, the Middle East and West Asia. Later, Johnson volunteered for duty in South Vietnam.

Johnson later was an instructor and assistant professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Johnson also led Strategic Air Command and was deputy commander-in-chief of Central Command. In the late 1980s, he was appointed commander of the Transportation and Military Airlift Commands.

After retiring, Johnson was appointed by presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton to serve on the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. In 2001, Johnson became assistant secretary of the Navy just one month before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In 2003, he became acting secretary of the Navy, guiding that service during Operation Iraqi Freedom.





Alonzo Babers

Class of 1983

Alonzo Babers was the first USAFA graduate to win a gold medal during the Olympics. In fact, he won two gold medals during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

While at USAFA, he participated in track and played football for one season. Babers still holds the Academy record in the 400-meter, 300-yard and 500-yard dashes. Babers made his international track debut at the 1983 World Championships as a member of the U.S. 4x400 relay team. The next year was the best and last season for Babers as a competitive athlete. Babers was second at the U.S. Olympic trials in the 400-meter dash and, although not favored to win a medal, won Olympic gold in both the 400 meters and 4x400 relay.

Just one month after his double-gold performance, Babers went to flight training school and began a career as a pilot. He was an active duty officer in the Air Force from 1983-91 and later served in the Air Force Reserves. After leaving the Air Force, Babers became a 777 pilot for United Airlines.

Babers, a two-time NCAA All-American, was inducted into the USAFA Athletic Hall of Fame as part of its inaugural class in 2007.



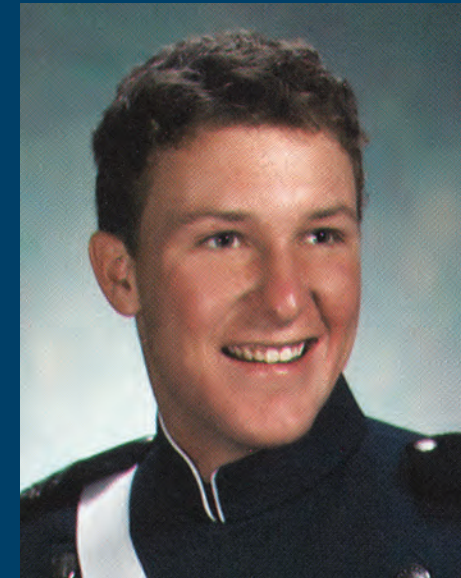
Dyan Gibbens Class of 2004

Dyan Gibbens is CEO and founder of Trumbull Unmanned, a company that utilizes drone technology to aid the oil industry. The company provides mapping, monitoring and inspecting services for some of the largest oil companies in the world. Fortune magazine recognized Gibbens as one of the nation's top women shaping the drone industry. She also was recognized as an "up-and-comer CEO" by CNBC.

Gibbens studied engineering while at USAFA and was an instructor pilot and a member of the parachute team. During her AF career, Gibbens served as an acquisitions officer. While managing cruise missiles, Gibbens earned her MBA.

She later took a job to support Air Force One and Global Hawk UAS engineering and logistics. Her doctoral research in UAS/drones, RFID, wireless systems, computer vision and the promotion of hydrocarbon sequestration from a UAV eventually led Gibbens to her interest in the energy sector.

She served as a distinguished lecturer for the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) in 2015-16, participating in a global tour to speak on UAS safety, risk and operations.



Scott Kirby Class of 1989

J. Scott Kirby is the president of American Airlines Group and American Airlines, its principal subsidiary company. In his role as president, Kirby oversees American's operations, planning, marketing, sales and alliances.

After graduating from USAFA and completed his master's degree in operations research, Kirby served as an economist for the Under Secretary of Defense, Program Acquisition and Evaluation Office, at the Pentagon.

After leaving the Air Force, Kirby went to work for Sabre Decision Technologies, where he consulted with various airlines. In 1995, he joined America West Airlines as a senior director. He was promoted to vice president in 1998 and senior vice president in 2000. America West merged with US Airways in 2005 and Kirby eventually was named president of US Airways in 2006. Kirby helped guide that airline through bankruptcy proceedings in 2012 and merger negotiations in 2013. In 2013, Kirby became president of AAG and American Airlines. He joined the board of directors of American in 2014.

Kirby serves on the board for the USAFA Endowment.